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Romania

Poultry and Products

Avian Influenza – The third outbreak 2005

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Report Highlights:

On November 13, 2005, samples collected from 4 hens belonging to 2 backyard farms in Caraorman village, Tulcea county, tested positive for Avian Influenza virus of H5 type. The village was placed under quarantine. "Test-chickens" introduced in the backyard farms affected during the first avian influenza (AI) outbreak in Ceamurlia-de-Jos survived, so the veterinary quarantine was lifted. More migratory birds tested positive for Avian Influenza virus H5 type. Monitoring and Surveillance Program continue for both wild and domestic birds.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Sofia [BU1]
[RO]

The third AI outbreak in Romania - Caraorman

On November 13, the Avian Flu virus of H5 type was isolated in samples collected from 4 hens belonging to 2 backyard farms in Caraorman, Tulcea county, in the Danube Delta region of Romania. The village has about 110 households with an estimated number of 2,000 domestic birds.

The procedure applied to the first two outbreaks - Ceamurlia-de-Jos and Maliuc - was considered here as well and Caraorman village was placed under quarantine. The birds are killed and incinerated while their owners are to receive compensation. Caraorman village is very isolated with no access by road. All traffic in and out of the village is by waterways, therefore movement restrictions are more easily to implement.

Status on the first two AI outbreaks**---- Ceamurlia-de-Jos**

On October 7, 2005, an outbreak of suspicion of avian influenza was reported in a backyard flock of 53 chickens/hens and 47 ducks in Ceamurlia-de-Jos, Tulcea County, in the eastern part of the country. On October 15, the Institute for Diagnosis and Animal Health received official confirmation from the Weybridge Laboratory in United Kingdom that the isolated virus was highly pathogenic, H5N1 strain, similar to the one detected in Turkey and Asia.

The stamping-out procedure has been applied and all poultry from Ceamurlia-de-Jos (18,642 birds) have been culled and incinerated; the final disinfection action took place during October 17-19. On October 29, 15 backyard farms were populated with 150 "test-chickens" of 4-6 weeks old. Serological tests with negative results were done on the respective chickens prior to placement. On November 11, the village has been officially declared free of virus and the quarantine restrictions were lifted, as the chickens survive.

---- Maliuc

On October 19, samples from one hen and one swan collected from Maliuc (40 km north from Ceamurlia-de Jos) tested positive for Avian Influenza. The Reference Laboratory in Weybridge, UK, confirmed the presence of the highly pathogenic H5N1 virus.

All poultry from Maliuc (3,508 birds) were culled and incinerated. The final disinfection operation took place on October 28. Several backyard farms were populated with 100 "test-chickens" and if the chickens survive until next week, the second outbreak will also be closed.

More migratory birds test AI positive

On October 21, a heron found in Vaslui county, at about 4 kilometers far from Falcu town, tested H5 positive. On October 27, the Weybridge Laboratory confirmed that the sample collected from the heron in Vaslui, was H5N1.

On October 31, the Institute for Diagnosis and Animal Health informed that the samples collected from a blackbird and one jaybird found dead in Bucharest tested negative for AI. The same day, it was announced that H5 virus has been isolated in a sample coming from a dead swan found on the shore of Sinoie Lake (Tulcea County) and in a sample coming from a wild goose near Vadu Oii (Constanta County) on the Danube river. As a result, domestic birds, which belong to backyards close to Vadu Oii, were subject to testing with negative results though.

As all the above positive cases were migratory birds far from villages, they were considered isolated cases and no locality in the vicinity was placed under quarantine.

Monitoring and Surveillance Program continue

Given the fact that the largest bird migration recently began in mid-November, the Romanian Veterinary authority anticipates additional outbreaks in the Danube, Delta region. The monitoring program for wild birds, the restriction of live birds movement outside the backyard and clinical examination of domestic birds will continue.

To date, about \$125,000 was spent for compensations granted to population living in the two affected villages, of which \$103,000 in Ceamurlia-de-Jos.